



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager  
(860)441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter**

**Tuesday, October 21, 2008**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### REGULAR MEETING

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.*

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Schmidt

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by John Casey.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

##### **2008-0209 Proclamation Honoring John G. Casey**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Mayor Watson. Councilor Kolnaski, a veteran Navy nurse of World War II, also thanked Mr. Casey and remarked that all the veterans honored were pleased and grateful for all the work he had done. The Town Manager noted that, as a result of Mr. Casey's suggestions, many difficulties were avoided making the ceremony a more meaningful and safer experience.*

##### **2008-0226 Proclamation Recognizing Lighthouse Voc-Ed Center**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Mayor Watson.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

#### **V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

#### **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2008-0257 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 14, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

##### **b. Administrative Items**

##### **2008-0249 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$157.42 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Various Donations - \$59.00 - Jabez Smith House Discretionary

Susan Decorte - \$249.86 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List****2008-0047 20th Anniversary of Mystic Pizza**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0105 Tercentennial Legacy Playground - Update**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0242 Hybrid Vehicle Grant**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0251 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0252 Reappointment of Paul Bates and Francis Crowley to Harbor Management Commission**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0253 Reappointment of Charles Nado to the Historic District Commission**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0254 Reappointment of Enrico DeMatto, W. Gordon Lange, and Richard Monteiro to the Permanent School Building Committee**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2008-0256 Representation on Outside Agencies**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

**A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Brown-Tracy

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)****a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Kolnaski attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner, and a joint Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting. She, along with Councilor Streeter, Councilor Sheets, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Brown-Tracy, and Mayor Watson, attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the Animal Shelter and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the salt shed.*

*Councilor Sheets received two more applications for the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community. She received a report of mold at Northeast Academy. The Town Manager will look into this concern.*

*Councilor Brown-Tracy attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner, took a community leaders' tour of the Pfizer research facility, and was present at the Nautilus Alumni Association 50th Anniversary Dinner which commemorated the Nautilus' arctic exploration.*

Mayor Watson attended a Trails Committee meeting, the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner, the Mystic Co-Op Task Force meeting, and a Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority meeting. He stocked clams with members of the Shellfish Commission. The Mayor met with science teachers, the principal, and the vice principal of Fitch Senior High School regarding gas jets in the science labs. He submitted an editorial regarding the subject which appeared in *The Day* newspaper, and stated he has become an advocate after being made aware of the importance of this issue.

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*No report.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

The Town Clerk remarked that over 1,100 absentee ballots have been sent out worldwide, and registered voters in the Town have increased from 18,000 to 24,000. She reminded citizens that there is still a need for poll workers on election day. The Town Clerk noted that on election day, November 4, 2008, the Land Records office will be closed. She mentioned an editorial in *The Day* regarding Charter questions and explanatory text. The Town Clerk stated that Groton residents were mailed an approved/authorized explanatory text document on Monday. Additional copies can be obtained in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website. Due to the election, the next regularly scheduled Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

**d. Town Manager**

The Town Manager was pleased to report a successful bond sale. He gave a brief summary and stated that details will appear in the Town Council Weekly Status Report. He received write-ups from the three bond rating agencies. Moody's and Fitch's ratings were both upheld, but Standard & Poor's rating was upgraded. The Town Manager received a copy of a memo obtained by Mike Murphy, Director of Planning and Development, that will be submitted to Noank Zoning on October 21, 2008, which proposes an amendment that would not allow municipal uses in one of the zones in the Noank Fire District. In particular, it would limit the Town's ability in the future to do anything of a municipal nature in the school building.

**2008-0265 Board of Education Storage Needs**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION STORAGE NEEDS**

The Town Manager received a copy of a letter to the Mayor from Beverly Washington outlining the need for more storage space for the Board of Education. The letter mentioned that William Seely School would no longer be needed except for the fact that it is currently used for storage.

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne**

*Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on October 09, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson**

*The Committee of the Whole discussed a grant for Hybrid Vehicles.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*In response to Councilor Sheets' question, the Town Manager stated that he has looked into the provision regarding Board of Education contracts and does not have a definitive answer at this time. The item will be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS****2008-0242 Hybrid Vehicle Grant**

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN A GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL (HYBRID) MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has previously acquired, and now uses, hybrid motor vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the Town's experience with the economic performance of such vehicles has been favorable, and

WHEREAS, grants are available to cover the premium cost of hybrid vehicles that are scheduled to be listed in the FYE 2010 Town Manager's Proposed Budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark Oefinger, is authorized to sign the Program Confirmation Form and subsequent agreements and related documents with the State of Connecticut for a cash grant toward the purchase of six alternative fuel motor vehicles.

**A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Councilor O'Beirne is opposed to this resolution. He stated that he would like to see a listing of how many and which vehicles the Town plans on replacing. He is concerned that if Groton does not utilize all six of the slots reserved through this grant, another community will not be able to use this funding.*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

*A motion to approve Resolutions 2008-0251 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee, 2008-0252 Reappointment of Paul Bates and Francis Crowley to Harbor Management Commission, 2008-0253 Reappointment of Charles Nado to the Historic District Commission, and 2008-0254 Reappointment of Enrico DeMatto, W. Gordon Lange, and Richard Monteiro to the Permanent School Building Committee was made by Councilor O'Beirne, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.*

**2008-0251 Reappointment of Eleanor Schoolcraft to Community Development Advisory Committee**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ELEANOR SCHOOLCRAFT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Eleanor Schoolcraft, 350 Ring Drive is hereby reappointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term expiring 2/7/10.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0252 Reappointment of Paul Bates and Francis Crowley to Harbor Management Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING PAUL BATES AND FRANCIS CROWLEY TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term ending 9/1/11, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Francis L. Crowley, 8 Palmer Court, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term ending 9/1/11.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0253 Reappointment of Charles Nado to the Historic District Commission**

REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARLES A. NADO TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Charles A. Nado, 380 High Street, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Historic District Commission for a term expiring 12/31/13.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0254 Reappointment of Enrico DeMatto, W. Gordon Lange, and Richard Monteiro to the Permanent School Building Committee**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ENRICO DEMATTO, W. GORDON LANGE, AND RICHARD MONTEIRO TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Enrico DeMatto, 401 Sandy Holl Road, Mystic, is reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/11, and be it further

RESOLVED, that W. Gordon Lange, 1 Soundbreeze Avenue, Groton Long Point, is reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/11, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Richard Monteiro, 70 Spyglass Circle, is reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/11.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0256 Representation on Outside Agencies**

RESOLUTION APPROVING TOWN REPRESENTATIVES IN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton makes contributions to outside cultural and service agencies, and

WHEREAS, Section 8.10 of the Town Charter requires that each organization have at least one board member who has been nominated by the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following representatives are approved for Fiscal Year 2008-09:

Literacy Volunteers of America - Betty Anne Reiter, 32 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic  
Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut - Ellen C. Brown, 7 Main Street, Noank  
Connecticut Legal Services - John Casey, 190 Clift Street, Mystic

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **2008-0266 Human Services Department - Discussion of Anticipated Needs**

#### **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT - DISCUSSION OF ANTICIPATED NEEDS**

*Councilor Kolnaski requested a referral for Social Services to update the Council as to the future climate and anticipated needs of its department.*

*Councilor Sheets noted that the State Department of Social Services will have a mobile bus at the Human Services Building on November 3, 2008 where citizens can find out if they are eligible for Medicaid, food stamps, ConnPACE prescription assistance, supplemental security income, and the Husky insurance program.*

*Councilor Streeter requested that the Town Council receive updates from Department Heads as to expectations and needs for the coming budget year. The Town Manager will set up that briefing.*

*Mayor Watson stated that when he attended the bond rating agency meeting with Standard & Poor's, the Town's undesignated fund balance was mentioned. He believes that is why the bond rating went up. The other two agencies, Moody's and Fitch, were both telephone interviews and the Mayor is uncertain that the undesignated fund balance was stressed as our ratings for those two agencies remained the same.*

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*